Upgradation of Hubli-Bijapur Highway as National Highway

899. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether upgradation of the highway between Hubli and Bijapur to the National Highway standards has begun;

(b) if so, the amount released to Karnataka from the Central Road fund;

(c) whether the State Government has sought another Rs. 10 crores for the above work;

(d) if so, the amount sought for the other works in the State; and

(e) the action if any, taken to release additional amount to the State from the Central Road Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As this road has been declared as a National Highway, the work on this National Highway is being carried out with budgetary allocations for National Highway works and not under Central Road Fund.

(c) and (d) The funds for National Highway works are not released National Highway-wise but State-wise. An amount of Rs. 104.30 Crore has been allocated during the year 2001-2002 for the Karnataka State, including the additional allocation as requested by the State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Impact of reforms in SSI Sector

900. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of structural reforms on the Small Scale Industry Sector;

(b) whether small scale sector has suffered due to opening up of the economy;

(c) if not, how;

(d) whether Government propose to provide preferential opportunity to extend investment limit for SSI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The structural reforms initiated by the Government which include, *inter-alia*, opening of the economy internally and externally, have exposed the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector to greater competition both domestically and globally. At the same time, it has provided greater access to markets, cheaper imported raw materials and technologies. The SSI sector has demonstrated the resilience to withstand the competition as it has recorded a rate of growth which is higher than the overall industrial growth.

(d) and (e) The SSI units prducing items having export potential are given preference for enhancement of investment ceiling in consultation with the stakeholders enabling them to go for technology upgradation and to have competitive edge. With effect from 9th October, 2001, the investment ceiling for hand tools and hosiery items has been raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

Sustenance of SSI in Foreign Markets

†901. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Small Scale Industries have not been able to sustain themselves in foreign markets due to fierce competition;

(b) if so, the steps Government are going to take to strengthen them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Indian Small Scale Industries (SSIs) continue to contribute around 35% of the current exports from the country, which indicates their competitiveness in the export markets. The Government has also taken several steps to strengthen the SSI sector and to encourage its exports. These include scheme for assistance on acquiring ISO-9000 certificate, quality awards, export related Entrepreneur Development Programmes and subsidising participation in international fairs/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.